50X1

[redacted] U S Dept of Agric Contract 50X1

Table of Contents

Libya

[redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

Libya

A. General

Libyan veterinary services are extremely inadequate either for providing animal health care or for carrying out public health measures related to inspection and supervised distribution of livestock products. Although animals and animal products account for 30 percent of the value of agricultural exports in addition to forming an important part of the national food subsistence, the importance of animal disease control has been relegated to a relatively insignificant status both by the national government and by the international technical assistance agencies operating in Libya. Much less emphasis is placed on improvement of animal health and the control of livestock products in Libya than in the surrounding North African countries where development of these programs are considered imperative to increased productivity and trade.

Failure to provide adequate veterinary inspection and slaughter facilities limits the export of animal and livestock products to countries with low sanitary and quality requirements.

Libya will continue to be dependent for many years on foreign veterinarians and technicians to fill the established posts. To provide even a moderately effective service, the veterinary force will have to be considerably augmented and solicit, in addition, the services of veterinary advisors through the international technical assistance missions. 2/ 5/ 11/ 12/ 17/

B. Environmental factors

1. Topography and climate - The arid conditions and frequent severe droughts in much of the rangeland area of Libya and attendent malnutrition are the main factors contributing to animal disease losses. 2/ 12/ 15/

2. Socio-economic pattern - Indiscriminate nomadic movement of diseased and parasitized livestock and the subsequent contact with unaffected animals creates a continuous dissemination of infection and infestation. The Moslem philosophy of the inevitability of the Will of Allah and superstitious opposition to preventive treatment are strong factors in preventing the expansion and development of veterinary disease control measures.

Extension service education methods, introduced by international technical assistance missions, have not yet significantly penetrated the dominant nomadic livestock production areas and the animal health phase of such programs is seriously neglected. 2/ 12/ 15/ 21/

3. Animal and plant life

Flies - Hypoderma species are common and the ox-warble infestation is a serious cause of loss through extensive hide damage.

Ticks and mites - Ixodes ricinus, Dermacenter reticulatus and Rhipicephalus species are known to exist and transmit Babesiosis and Theileriasis in various domestic animals.

The mites, Psoraptes communis ovis and Sarcoptes scabiei are responsible for widespread scabies or mange in sheep. 2/ 21/

4. Nutrition

b. Food supply and distribution - Meat products, both for domestic requirement and for export, are seriously restricted by animal diseases, frequent drought and

malnutrition. The principal efforts under the aid programs to alleviate these conditions are directed toward pasture improvement, water and fodder conservation, and dissemination of improved breeding animals. Animal disease and parasite control, one of the most important activities for providing increased productivity, is neglected. 2/5/12/13/15/17/

c. Food sanitation, storage and technology - Cold storage, modern slaughter facilities and efficient distribution of meat continues to be lacking despite planning and recommendation for improved systems over the past eight-year period. Reasonably good slaughter facilities for domestic use exist only in Tripoli, but the supervision of these in terms of public health standards is completely inadequate. Livestock product export to favorable European markets is restricted by the high incidence of disease and the failure to develop refrigerated facilities. Consequently, the bulk of exports are in the form of live animals transported by foot to Egypt or by ship to certain Mediterranean countries willing to accept animals of inferior quality and questionable health status. 2/ 5/ 12/ 20/ 21/

C. Diseases

2. Diseases of animals - Despite assertions by public officials and some foreign technical assistance personnel to the contrary, animal disease must be considered a major factor in the low production rate of Libyan livestock. Even though some of the epizootic African diseases which devastate livestock in other areas are not present in Libya, several common infectious and parasitic diseases take a high toll and reduce the resistance of animals to the severe environmental conditions that exist.

(a) Scabies - Sarcoptic and psoroptic mange is common among sheep and goats throughout Libya. These manges are responsible for an estimated 40 percent reduction in wool production and account for severe mortality and debility losses. Very little

effort has been made to expand insecticide treatment or control the spread of the mites. 2/ 11/ 12/ 13/ 21/

(b) Anthrax - Anthrax, reported confined to certain regions, is highly fatal in animals and a continuous public health threat to livestock raisers and processors. Vaccination is confined to the herds and flocks of the more progressive farmers, which are readily accessible to the veterinary services. 15/ 21 /

(c) Sheep pox - Reported widespread in Libya, sheep pox accounts for considerable loss. Vaccination has been conducted in a few breeding flocks but the bulk of the sheep population in the range herds are not immunized. 12/ 13/ 15/ 21/

(d) Babesiosis - Official reports indicate sporadic incidence of piroplasmosis and other protozoon blood diseases of livestock. Conditions are ideal for the transmission of these diseases by a number of known vectors and losses are probably much higher than reports indicate. Very little investigation of the true incidence has been attempted. 2/ 15/ 21/

(e) Hydatidosis - A large percentage of Libyan livestock is affected by hydatidosis. Control methods are non-existent and very little attention is given to the examination of carcasses or condemnation of affected animals. This disease is a major limiting factor in restricting exports to such favorable markets as Cyprus and a few other Mediterranean countries. 2/ 5/ 21/

(f) Foot-and-Mouth disease - A serious increase in foot-and-mouth disease occurred in 1958, leading to a ban on the movement of cattle from Tripolitania to Cyrenaica. Little effort has been made to isolate the F&M virus strains or to conduct a vaccination program and the ban on livestock movement alone cannot be expected to contribute to permanent confinement of the disease. 2/ 5/ 21/

(g) Brucellosis - ~~Little investigation concerning the epizootiology of~~ brucellosis, particularly among ~~sheep and goats, has been attempted in Libya.~~ The disease is ~~known to be~~ widespread throughout ~~other North African countries~~ Libya and is generally considered a serious cause of low reproductive capacity in affected animals as well as a serious threat to human health. 15/ 21/

(h) Tuberculosis - Bovine tuberculosis incidence of 35 percent has been determined in some dairy herds. Few range animals have been tested but the incidence among this type of livestock is generally considered to be less serious. Common practice of boiling milk reduces the threat of this disease as a public health problem. 15/ 21/

(i) Other important diseases - Other important epizootic diseases are rabies, fowl plague and pasteurellosis. Listeriosis, leptospirosis and Q Fever have been identified but the extent of infection among animals is not known. 15/ 21/

D. Veterinary medical organization and administration

1. Civilian

a. Organization

(1) National veterinary services - Since no national or federal Ministry of Agriculture has been established, the organization of veterinary services at this level is lacking. Federal influence is exercised only through the Ministry of Finance, which is responsible for providing a part of the provincial funds.

(2) Provincial veterinary services - Currently Tripolitanian and Cyrenaican veterinary departments are administered by Nazirates of Agriculture. In the Fezzan the only veterinary activity is conducted through the services of agriculture advisors of the technical assistance missions.

Recent investigation of the two existing veterinary services by an FAO veterinary

advisors revealed that, though the veterinary staff was far from optimum strength, the more immediate and serious problem was lack of equipment, transport and facilities. It appears quite obvious that it is necessary to provide the tools for the existing staff before an expansion in personnel is contemplated. An organization of Arab Veterinary Assistants and Dressers exists in Tripolitania and Cyrenaica and the two veterinary departments theoretically operate through this group in carrying out the limited veterinary immunization and investigation work attempted.

Veterinary participation in meat inspection or other public health measures at provincial or municipal level is virtually non-existent. 2/ 5/ 12/ 17/

b. Legal controls

(1) Licensure -- No veterinary licensure standards have been established in Libya. 2/ 12/ 17/

(2) Quarantine -- Quarantine or restricted movement orders for livestock are rarely imposed and seldom enforced. As in the case of the recent ban on livestock movement from Tripolitania to Cyrenaica because of F&M disease, other complimentary measures dealing with effective disease control procedures are generally ignored. 2/ 5/ 12/ 17/

(3) Inspection -- Major municipalities provide theoretically supervised abattoirs, but the inspection of animals is generally conducted by unqualified sanitary inspectors. 2/ 8/ 9/ 15/

c. Professional veterinary organization - Libya has no professional veterinary organization. An Organization of Arab Veterinary Assistants and Dressers has been established. 15/

d. Veterinary research - Because of the small number of qualified veterinarians and the almost complete lack of veterinary equipment and facilities no veterinary research has been attempted in Libya. 12/ 15/

2. Veterinary medical military organization

No military veterinary organization exists in Libya. 12/ 15/

E. Veterinary manpower

The veterinary personnel in Libya are distributed between the Veterinary Departments of Tripolitania and Cyrenaica. In 1957 the Tripolitanian service employed six Italian veterinarians and the Cyrenaican service seven Egyptian veterinarians. In carrying out veterinary duties for the Bedouin livestock owners, these services work through the Organization of Arab Veterinary Assistants and Dressers whose personnel membership is unknown. 12/ 15/

Libya has no training center for veterinarians and will be dependent on foreign veterinarians for manpower for some time. Currently, even the facilities for preparatory veterinary training are lacking so that qualified Libyan nationals are not available to send abroad for veterinary education. 12/ 15/

F. Veterinary medical facilities

Except for the facilities provided primarily for the animal husbandry experiment stations in Tripolitania and Cyrenaica no veterinary care units exist in Libya. 12/ 15/

G. Veterinary supplies and material

The almost total lack of supplies and material for veterinary use in Libya prevent effective utilization of even the small veterinary staff. Failure to provide transport immobilizes personnel and a recent survey by an FAO veterinary advisor revealed that

50X1

only one microscope was available in all of Cyrenaica for veterinary use. Lack of both transportation and refrigeration facilities restrict the use of viable biologics and the handling of diagnostic specimens for laboratory diagnosis. 2/ 12/ 15/

H. Reference data - Nil.

I. Comments on principal sources

1. Evaluation - The lack of interest or attention to animal diseases and veterinary affairs in the agricultural surveys and reports of the various international technical missions, results in serious gaps in the information required. This unusual disinterest is striking since similar reports from other countries of the area place considerably more emphasis on these subjects and generally attach a great deal of importance to

50X1

health of animals.

2. List of sources (in order of importance)

1. I. Mann, Personal communications. (Colonial Veterinary Service, Kenya, British East Africa.) Washington, D.C. July 23, 1959. (Unclassified)
2. United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization. ETAP Report No. 21. Report to the Government of Libya on Agriculture. Part One-Text; Part Two-Illustrations. Rome. November 1952. (Unclassified)
3. United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization. ETAP Report No. 483. Report to the Government of Libya on Improvement of Cattle. Rome. June 1956. (Unclassified)
4. Lindberg, John. A General Economic Appraisal of Libya. United Nations. Technical Assistance Administration. New York. 1952. (Unclassified)
5. U.S. Department of State. Foreign Service Despatches Nos. 213, 223, 275, 280, 318, and 251. "Weekly Economic Reviews." Tripoli. February 10, 1959 - June 8, 1959.
6. United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization/Office of International Epizootics. FAO/OIE Animal Health Year Book. Rome. 1957. (Unclassified)

50X1

50X1

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

NIS 49 - Section 45

Libya

A. General

Libyan veterinary services are extremely inadequate either for providing animal health care or for carrying out public health measures related to inspection and supervised distribution of livestock products. Although animals and animal products account for 30 percent of the value of agricultural exports in addition to forming an important part of the national food subsistence, the importance of animal disease control has been relegated to a relatively insignificant status both by the national government and by the international technical assistance agencies operating in Libya. Much less emphasis is placed on improvement of animal health and the control of livestock products in Libya than in the surrounding North African countries where development of these programs are considered imperative to increased productivity and trade.

Failure to provide adequate veterinary inspection and slaughter facilities limits the export of animal and livestock products to countries with low sanitary and quality requirements.

Libya will continue to be dependent for many years on foreign veterinarians and technicians to fill the established posts. To provide even a moderately effective service, the veterinary force will have to be considerably augmented and solicit, in addition, the services of veterinary advisors through the international technical assistance missions. 2/ 5/ 11/ 12/ 17/

B. Environmental factors

1. Topography and climate - The arid conditions and frequent severe droughts in much of the rangeland area of Libya and attendent malnutrition are the main factors contributing to animal disease losses. 2/ 12/ 15/

2. Socio-economic pattern - Indiscriminate nomadic movement of diseased and parasitized livestock and the subsequent contact with unaffected animals creates a continuous dissemination of infection and infestation. The Moslem philosophy of the inevitability of the Will of Allah and superstitious opposition to preventive treatment are strong factors in preventing the expansion and development of veterinary disease control measures.

Extension service education methods, introduced by international technical assistance missions, have not yet significantly penetrated the dominant nomadic livestock production areas and the animal health phase of such programs is seriously neglected. 2/ 12/ 15/ 21/

3. Animal and plant life

Flies - Hypoderma species are common and the ox-warble infestation is a serious cause of loss through extensive hide damage.

Ticks and mites - Ixodes ricinus, Dermacenter reticulatus and Rhipicephalus species are known to exist and transmit Babesiosis and Theileriasis in various domestic animals.

The mites, Psoraptes communis ovis and Sarcoptes scabiei are responsible for widespread scabies or mange in sheep. 2/ 21/

4. Nutrition

b. Food supply and distribution - Meat products, both for domestic requirement and for export, are seriously restricted by animal diseases, frequent drought and